

# Committed to committees: harnessing the expertise of ALIA members



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The work of ALIA is immeasurably enhanced by the many members who serve the Association on its committees or who represent us on external committees. Within the membership the Board has a wealth of informed expertise to guide and advise it on a wide range of policy and other matters. These committee members willingly give their time to work on ALIA committees established to achieve the Objects of the Association. A check on ALIANet reveals the full extent of these committees and the names of the members who serve the Association so effectively, although perhaps without the full recognition they deserve.

These expert advisory groups are established by the Board with specific terms of reference and are reviewed every two years. Membership is established by either a call for expressions of interest in *inCite* or nominations made by the Board. The term is for two years from the Annual General Meeting and up to two consecutive terms may be served. At the March Board meeting each year the committees due for review are considered. At this time vacancies are filled, terms of reference amended if required and, if appropriate, committees may be wound up.

The committees cover a broad range of activities from copyright and intellectual property to government publications, from online content and regulation to research. Representation on external committees includes the ALIA/ASLA Joint Policy Advisory Group, the Australian Committee on Cataloguing, Australian Libraries Copyright Committee and the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), to name a few.

The work of the committees pervades much of the activity that we associate with ALIA business. For example, the National Awards Committee considers nominations for the ALIA awards such as the National Excellence Awards. The Library and Information Week (LIW) Planning and Advisory Group advises the Board on strategies to achieve the goals of LIW in raising awareness of the value of libraries and information services. The New Generation Policy and Advisory Group encourages new generation library and information professionals to participate in the activities of the Association. The Interlibrary Lending Expert Advisory Group (ILLEAG) is currently advising the Board on actions referred to ALIA from the National Resource Sharing Working Group final forum, including the revision of the Interlibrary Resource Sharing (ILRS) Code. The Online Content and Regulation Reference Group is providing

input to the development of a government-funded guide to internet safety. The Public Libraries Reference Group is developing an advocacy program to raise awareness of the role of the library and information sector in the national broadband strategy. The Purchasing and Consortia Reference Group continues to facilitate training and support for ALIA members through the forums on Purchasing Agreements and Licensing.

These are just some examples of the many, many activities these committees undertake as part of the Association. If you have expertise in any of the areas covered by the committees and would like to become more closely involved in this valuable work, look out for calls for expressions of interest in *inCite*, or contact a member of the Board or National Office staff. Let someone know of your interest so that when vacancies occur you can be considered.

This is my last Frontline as president of the Association. My final duty is to chair the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held on Thursday 19 May. On the agenda for the AGM is a special resolution to amend the ALIA Constitution to rename the National Policy Congress as the National Advisory Congress to more accurately communicate the advisory role of the Congress.

In my first Frontline I discussed what it means to be on the Board of Directors. This year we have elections for both the vice-president (president-elect) position and new directors, which is a very healthy situation. With more attention being paid to the role of boards of non-profit organisations, I would encourage members interested in becoming a Board member of ALIA in the future to read about the role and contact current or past directors to find out what is involved.

I would like to thank the current Board members sincerely for all their support, guidance and enthusiasm. I wish the new Board, led by my very capable successor Gill Hallam, a very successful year. It has been a privilege to have held the position of president and it has been a very rewarding experience. Although the Board is responsible for setting the direction of the Association, its task would be impossible without the support of the National Office staff. We have very dedicated staff led by the executive director, Jennefer Nicholson, who work tirelessly for the members and the Board in carrying out the operations of the Association across a wide range of portfolios including publishing, finance, education, industrial relations, policy, planning, research and strategic communications. Thank you all for your commitment. ■

## Feedback to your Board of Directors

Do you have an idea, compliment or concern about your Association? Contact any director and ideas will be reviewed at each Board meeting.

E-mail to [feedback@alia.org.au](mailto:feedback@alia.org.au) will be automatically forwarded to all Board members.

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